

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00261 051543Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 FEAE-00 STR-04 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CU-02 BIB-01 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 OES-03

/095 W

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P P R 051415Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9623

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FI

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER SORSA ADDRESSES ECONOMIC COOPERATION
IN NORTHER EUROPE AND BALTIC SEA AREA, INCLUDING SOVIET UNION

1. IN A SPEECH TO PAASIKIVI FOREIGN AFFAIR SOCIETY CHAPTER
IN VAASA ON FEBRUARY 3, FOREIGN MINISTER KALEVI SORSA
(SOCIAL DEMOCRAT) REVIEWED THE WORLD SITUATION, DISCUSSED
CSCE AND THE OUTLOOK FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS, AND ADDRESSED
THE SITUATION IN NORTHER EUROPE AND THE POSSIBILITIES FOR
NORDIC-SOVIET ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

2. CONCERNING THE LATTER TWO SUBJECTS, SORSA HAD THE
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PAGE 02 HELSIN 00261 051543Z

FOLLOWING TO SAY (EMBASSY TRANSLATION): "I BELIEVE THAT

PROMISING LINES OF ACTION ARE OPENING UP FOR MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN NORTHERN EUROPE. ONE SHOULD NOW INTENSIFY MEASURES TO FIND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS. THERE HAS BEEN TALK ABOUT DEVELOPING COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNICATIONS IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA IN VARIOUS CONNECTIONS. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT COMMON ECONOMIC PROJECTS IN WHICH NORDIC COUNTRIES WOULD PARTICIPATE TOGETHER WITH THE SOVIET UNION OR OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. VARIOUS PROJECTS CONNECTED WITH ENERGY HAVE BEEN MENTIONED IN THIS CONNECTION. "BIG ECONOMIC PROJECTS DEMAND, IN ADDITION TO A HIGH LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY, A SOLID FINANCIAL BASE. THERE IS EVERY REASON TO EXPECT THAT THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED NORDIC INVESTMENT BANK WILL BE HELPFUL IN THE CREATION OF SUCH A BASE. ONE CENTRAL TASK OF THIS BANK IS EXACTLY THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ECONOMIC CAPABILITY OF THE NORDIC COUNTRIES TO CARRY OUT COMMON PROJECTS.

"THE NORDIC COUNTRIES HAVE DEVELOPED A FAR REACHING SYSTEM OF COOPERATION IN MANY FIELDS. THE DEGREE OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT EACH OTHER IS UNIQUE AMONG THE NORDIC COUNTRIES. THIS IS OF GREAT USE ALSO WHEN IT COMES TO FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICIES. THERE IS A READINESS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ALSO IN THESE FIELDS. A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THE SEMI-ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS.

"THE BASIC SECURITY POLICY SOLUTIONS OF THE NORDIC COUNTRIES DIFFER FROM EACH OTHER. THE BASIC LINES OF THE FINNISH VIEW HAVE BEEN INDICATED IN PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S FAMOUS PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE NORTH OF EUROPE. DESPITE THE DIFFERENT VIEWS, ALL AGREE THAT IT IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR INTERESTS TO STRENGTHEN THE PEACEFUL RELATIONS IN NORTHERN EUROPE AND THE BALTIC SEA AREA AND TO KEEP THE AREA OUTSIDE INTERNATIONAL TENSION AND CONFLICTS IF THEY OCCUR. THE SOVIET UNION, THE BIG POWER ADJOINING THE AREA, HAS ADOPTED THE SAME STARTING POINT. ACCORDING TO MY VIEW, THIS OFFERS A FAVORABLE FIELD FOR A DISPASSIONATE DISCUSSION WHICH WOULD AIM AT THE ELIMINATION OF MILITARY TENSION AND CONFLICTS AND SPECULATIONS WITH THEM IN OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 HELSIN 00261 051543Z

AREA AND AT THE SUBSTITUTION OF THEM BY THE CULTIVATION OF VARIOUS FORMS OF PEACEFUL COOPERATION."

3.

BECAUSE THE LEADING NEWSPAPER IN FINLAND, HELSINGIN SANOMAT, HAD HEADLINED ITS LIMITED COVERAGE OF SORSA'S SPEECH WITH THE PHRASE "SOVIET UNION IMPORTANT IN NORDIC COOPERATION," DCM IN FEBRUARY 5 DISCUSSION WITH MFA

POLITICAL SECTION CHIEF JAAKO ILONIEMI ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF WHAT SORSA HAD IN MIND. ILONIEMI SAID THAT HELSINGIN SANOMAT HAD CRATED PROBLEMS FOR MFA BY TAKING CERTAIN PARTS OF SPEECH OUT OF CONTEXT AND BY ITS MISLEADING AND ERRONEOUS HEADLINE. ILONIEMI SAID THAT WHAT SORSA HAD BEEN TLKING ABOUT WAS NOT REPEAT NOT SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN TRADITIONAL NORDIC COOPERATION, BUT RATHER ABOUT ECONOMIC COOPERATION ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS IN NORTHERN EUROPE -- WHICH COULD INCLUDE ANY NUMBER OF THE NORDIC COUNTRIES, THE SOVIET UNION, AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA. THIS IS BORNE OUT BY THE ORIGINAL TEXT OF THE SPEECH PROVIDED BY ILONIEMI.

4. COMMENT: SORSA SPEECH PROBABLY REFLECTS SOME OF THE SORSA-GROMYKO TALKS DURING SORSA'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO USSR IN JANUARY. SORSA IN FACT LED INTO PASSAGES WE HAVE QUOTED ABOVE BY SAYING THAT DURING HIS MOSCOW VISIT "IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT A SUCCESSFUL SOLUTION OF EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION QUESTIONS WOULD HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON STRENGTHENING OF PEACEFUL RELATIONS IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE CONTINENT AND IN THE BALTIC SEA AREA, AS WELL AS FOR PROGRESS IN PRACTICAL COOPERATION ON A MULTILATERAL BASIS BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES IN THIS AREA."

5. WHILE SORSA SPEECH REFLECTS POSITION OF FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, MOST OTHER PARTIES, IN OR OUT OF THE PRESENT FIVE-PARTY COALITION GOVT, HAVE NOT ENDORSED IDEA OF BRINGING USSR INTO NORDIC COOPERATION. WHEN FIRST LAUNCHED IN LATE 1974 BY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC DAILY DEMARI AND LEFT-WING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MP ERKKI TUOMIOJA AT THE REYKJAVIK NORDIC COUNCIL MEETING, IDEA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 HELSIN 00261 051543Z

CAUSED QUITE A FLAP. AT THEIR JUNE 1975 PARTY CONGRESS THE FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS INCLUDED IN THEIR PARTY PROGRAM A PLAN FAVORING INCLUSION OF USSR IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN NORTHER EUROPE.

6. GIVEN FACT THAT SORSA ON FEBRUARY 5 EMBARKED ON HIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO ANY NORDIC COUNTRY (NORWAY) DURING HIS PRESENT TENURE AS FOREIGN MINISTER GIVES SPEECH A SPECIAL TIMELINESS AND INTEREST -- PARTICULARLY SINCE THE NORWEGIANS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MOST ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO FINNISH SUGGESTIONS FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES AND THE SOVIET UNION. AUSTAD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HELSIN00261
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760044-0367
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760280/aaaacrzz.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <27 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER SORSA ADDRESSES ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN NORTHER EUROPE AND BALTIC SEA AREA, INCLUDING SOVIET UNION
TAGS: PFOR, FI, UR, (SORSA, KALEVI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006